



August 3, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy Commissioner Michael Copps Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket Number 05-192

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Adelstein:

On behalf of the Ministerial Alliance Against the Digital Divide (MAADD), I write to inform the FCC of our strong support for the pending joint acquisition of Adelphia cable systems by Comcast Corporation and Time Warner Inc. that is currently being considered by the Commission.

MAADD is a more than 8000 member organization of Chicago-area ministers devoted to bridging the digital divide between those who have ready access to the Internet and those who do not. We are particularly concerned with data showing that while African Americans and Hispanics are among the fastest growing demographics of internet users, they still lag behind in their access to affordable advanced telecom services. The MAADD coalition works to ensure that corporations embrace their community responsibilities to close the digital divide.

Comcast and Time Warner are two companies that have worked closely with the communities they serve and are committed to providing consumers with the best possible services. In particular, they are substantially involved in their communities in activities that help bridge the digital divide. For example, Comcast is heavily involved in the Cable in the Classroom initiative and has provided free cable TV to nearly 17,000 schools and free high speed internet access to over 7,000 schools and 1,500 libraries and community centers.

There are also other important public benefits to the completion of this acquisition. First, the deal will prevent the loss of numerous Adelphia jobs by removing the troubled company from bankruptcy. We can also be assured

that Adelphia employees will be absorbed into two companies with proven records of employment diversity and a commitment to working with minority owned small businesses.

We are most familiar with Comcast as the company provides service to the Chicago area. Comcast currently employs roughly 60,000 people, 40% of which are minorities. Since 2002, Comcast has increased its spending with minority businesses by 250%. This commitment to investing more in the minority community is proof to us that Comcast is a willing and important partner in the minority communities it serves.

While this is a record to be proud of, we are pleased to know that Comcast still believes it can do better and has implemented measures to monitor diversity both inside the company and with suppliers and vendors they do business with. This is the type of corporate culture MAADD looks for when accessing companies and deciding whether to speak out in support of transactions of this nature. Based on Comcast's dedication to diversity hiring, the use of minority-owned vendors, and providing advanced services to minority communities, we feel strongly that the FCC should approve this transaction.

The benefits are far reaching and will continue to have positive effects on the minority community for many years to come as more and more African Americans and Hispanics have access to equal services in their community. Based on the foregoing, we respectfully ask the FCC to approve this transaction in a timely manner. Thank you for your consideration of such an important matter.

Sincerely,

Rev. James L. Demus III

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Co-Director